

January 14, 2009

Madam Speaker:

On Monday, two days ago, I was visiting in a rural newspaper office in Glen Rose, Texas, in my district. I was discussing the Children's Health Insurance program when one of the employees there, Lindsey Brewer, heard our conversation, and asked if she could say something.

In deeply heartfelt words, Lindsey told me that her 9 year old daughter, Amalie, has had leukemia for the past two years. You see Lindsey and her husband both work, but like millions of hard-working Americans, they don't have health insurance, because their employers cannot afford it. Despite their modest annual income, both parents working, their income under \$50,000, the Brewers were devastated to find out that Amalie was ineligible for the CHIP program. The Brewers are two loving hard-working parents. Through no fault of their or their daughters, they are facing medical bills totaling \$100,233 dollars and growing every single day. You know the Brewers don't want welfare; they want to work and be good role models for Amalie and her two brothers. That is why I consider CHIP to be pro-family and pro-work. I met Amalie this week after hearing her story. This is her photograph. She's a beautiful third grader making straight As and working in karate class. This bill isn't about all the various rules and procedures. This bill is about Amalie Brewer and her future. It is about her family and their future. It's about the honoring the pro work values of Mr. and Mrs Brewer and millions of other parents like them.

Madam Speaker, I'd ask every member one question before they vote on this bill today. If Amalie Brewer were your child or grand daughter, how would you vote? I hope the answer will be "yes" because the Amalie Brewer and millions of others like them are waiting to see how we vote.

Vote "yes" on expanding the Children's Health Insurance Program. These families deserve no less.

